

# God the Father

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 95,**  
the Family + Faith page.

**Read** the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

In this chapter you will help your child to:

- Name God the Father as the First Divine Person of the Holy Trinity
- Understand that God loves and cares for us
- Begin to develop a capacity to trust and rely on God the Father
- Understand that prayer is talking and listening to God

**Parents, Consider This:** *Passing on the Catholic faith to your child is based on the relationship we, ourselves, have developed with God. Think of how you came to know God. What were the images that formed your understanding of him? What is the image of God you hope to give your child? How did you learn to trust God? In what ways can you help your child to come to trust God, too?*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This helps you understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



**Let's Sing:** These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

- People Worry
- Children of God

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 87,**  
God the Father

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



**Let Us Pray** Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

**Explain** that today we remember that God is our Father.

**Say:** Let's listen to how we should put God first in our lives.



**Guide** your child through the Preparing for God’s Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God’s Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

**Invite** your child to respond and also share what you heard.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

**Say:** God our Father knows what we need. If we trust in God, we do not need to worry. We learn to trust God as we trust those who care for us in our everyday life.

**Share** a story of a time you trusted God and how he provided for you.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what they wonder about God’s life and love and how he shares them with us.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 88,**  
Care for God’s Children

**Read** the first sentence.

**Ask** your child to find and read the word **Saint**, and then move to the Catholic Faith Words box. Ask your child to read the definition there of a Saint. Tell your child you are going to read a story about a Saint who acted like a loving father to children who had no parents to care for them.

**Read** the story of Saint John Bosco. Ask your child the question at the end of the story. Discuss what made Father John’s home a place of protection and care for the children who lived there.

**Ask** your child “What makes you feel safe and loved?” Conclude by saying, “A safe and loving home is what God wants for all of his children.”

**Review** the word **Saint** and ask your child to tell you how Saint John Bosco showed the love of God.

**Turn to Page 89,**  
God the Father

**Read** this section. Ask your child to name a few ways a parent shows love to a child. Ask your child to name one or two specific ways you show love and care in your family. (baking a favorite cookie recipe, playing a special game, an affectionate name you call your child)

**Move** to the Catholic Faith Words box on the previous page. Ask your child to read the definition of **God the Father**.

**Turn to Page 90,**  
The Father’s Love

**Ask** your child to describe their image of God the Father.

**Read** the question, “What does it mean to trust in God?” Then read the introductory paragraph.

## Activity

Take a piece of paper and fold it in half. On the top of one-half, write the word “Needs.” At the top of the other half write the word, “Wants.” Together, list some things that your child identifies as things we *need* under that heading, such as air, food, shelter, hugs from parents, friends, and/or books for school. Under the heading “Wants,” list some things your child describes as *wants*, such as video games, a fancy bike, to be first in line, and/or ice cream. After completing the activity, discuss how your child knew what belonged on each list.

**Share** with your child that God takes care of us by providing for our needs. God provides for many of our needs through the love of other people, especially people in our family.



**Proclaim** the Scripture.

**Ask** your child to share some ways parents show care for children. Ask your child some ways a child can show care for others.

**Remind** your child that God’s care often comes through the care we receive from loved ones.

**Turn to Page 91,**  
Turn to God in Prayer

**Have** your child read aloud the first paragraph. Ask him or her to find the word **prayer** in the Catholic Faith Words box. Ask your child to read the definition of **prayer**.

**Read** the second paragraph. Have your child find the word **trust** in the second paragraph. Move to the Catholic Faith Word box and have him or her read the definition there.

## Activity

**Read** the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity. Have your child complete the activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Prayer is a learned practice. There are prayers we memorize. We call this rote prayer. This form of prayer helps us to focus our mind and heart on God. Memorized prayers are a valuable part of the Catholic Tradition. We usually memorize prayers in childhood. Once we learn them and say them regularly, they become a valuable part of our spiritual life. Saying prayers we*

have memorized, like the Our Father or Hail Mary, almost instantly help us to put our trust in God. Your child is at a perfect age to memorize prayers. Say one or two prayers each night at bedtime. Your child will learn them over time and you will be modeling a regular prayer practice. Teaching your child this spiritual practice is a gift that lasts a lifetime.

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 92,**  
Our Catholic Life

**Discuss** the question, “What does it mean to have trust?” (we can count on someone, a person follows through on promises, a person does not let us down) Ask your child to name someone your family trusts.

**Read** the first and second paragraphs together.

**Remind** your child that God gives us a family and communities, like schools and churches, to surround us with grown-ups we can trust. Even though people sometimes let us down, we can turn to God in prayer to help us forgive them and find reassurance in God’s love.

★ **Follow** the gold-star activity instructions to review and complete the chart.

**Parents, Consider This:** Point out the people in your child’s life who are dedicated to care for them: teachers, police officers, doctors, bus drivers, relatives, and neighbors, to name a few. Talk to your child about remembering to thank them for their caring acts.

**Turn to Page 93,**  
People of Faith

**Read** the paragraph about Blessed Julian of Norwich.

- Share your reaction to the information.
- Talk about a time when you prayed for help. Ask your child what might be a circumstance in which to ask God for help. (when we are frightened, angry with someone, frustrated, or feel lonely)

**Turn to Page 95,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let’s Pray  
prayer on this page.

**Parents, Consider This:** It is important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Glory Be prayer (see Page 321), during your night prayer this week.



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).